DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: Oct 17, 2018

VZCZCMLT589ILN367 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ 39610
MULT
ACTION DIA:
DISTR CJCS DJS J3:(04) J5(0 MCC NMIC SECDEF: ASD:ISA(10)
:DIA(15) SWS(01)
SECSTATE WASH DC
C I A
NSA
WHITE HOUSE WASH DC
MCCC CMC
CNO WASH DC ~~NOFORN~~
CSA WASH DC
FILE(1)
(033)

TRANSIT/121205Z/121306Z/001:01TOR3161304
DE RUESBAA #1107 3161210
ZNY ~~CCCCC~~
P 121205Z NOV 75
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
RUEFHQA/CSAF WASH DC/IN//
RULPAFA/USAFSO ALBROOK AFB CZ
BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L/HNINTEL/NOFORN~~ 1107 NOV 75
THIS IS (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. AR
2. ARGENTINE AIR FORCE FINALLY GETS INTO THE WAR (U)
3. N/A
4. 1975, NOV 6
5. 1975, NOV 8, BSAS, ARGENTINA
6. A-1
7. NEWSPAPERS, AAF OFFICERS, TELEVISION
8. (b)(3):10 USC 424
9. 1975, NOV 10
10. N/A
11. (b)(3):10 USC 424
12.
13.
14.
15. 1. (U) IN ITS FIRST BELLICOSE PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNTER-GUERRILLA WAR IN TUCUMAN PROVINCE, THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE BOMBED AND STRAFED A SUSPECTED GUERRILLA BASE CAMP IN THE MOUNTAINS NEAR

30630 1
30630 2
374100 /AR
371225

NOV 12 2 20 PM '75

RECEIVED OS-40

321

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: *Oct 17, 2018*

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ 39618

THE TOWN OF FAMAILLA (27033-6524W) ON 6 NOV 75. THE ATTACK WAS MADE BY A-4B'S OF THE V AIR BRAGADE AT VILLA REYNOLDS (33433-6523W), AND WAS LED BY THE BRIGADE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (EQUIVALENT TO A USAF WING DO) COMODORO "CACHO" GIOSA.

2. (U) WEATHER DURING THE STRIKE, WHICH BEGAN AT 1300Z, WAS 500 METERS BROKEN AND DID NOT INTERFERE WITH VISUAL TARGET ACQUISITION. FRAGMENTATION BOMBS WERE DROPPED AND THEN STRAFING PASSES WITH 20MM CANNON WERE MADE UNTIL AMMUNITION WAS EXHAUSTED. STRIKE COORDINATION INVOLVED PRE AND POST STRIKE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY, PRE-STRIKE TARGET MARKING WITH SMOKE, AN AIR COORDINATOR ON THE GROUND AND AN AIRBORNE ON-SITE COMMANDER.

3. ~~(C)~~ THE GUERRILLA BASE CAMP ATTACKED, WHICH WAS LOCATED IN A HEAVILY FORESTED BOX CANYON, HAD BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION BY PATROLS OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY'S V INFANTRY BRIGADE, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUNTER-GUERRILLA OPERATONS IN THE TUCUMAN PROVINCE. ONE SOURCE REPORTED THAT THE PATROLS HAD OBSERVED STRUCTURES AND PERSONNEL, HEARD MOTORS RUNNING (PROBABLY POWER GENERATORS) AND HAD WITNESSED CONSIDERABE ACTIVITY AROUND CAVE ENTRANCES IN THE CANYON WALL. CONVINCED THAT IN THIS UNPOPULATED AREA THAT A GUERRILLA BASE CAMP HAD BEEN DISCOVERED, AND THAT ASSAULT ON IT BY GROUND FORCES WAS NOT FEASIBLE BECAUSE OF THE TERRAIN, THE ARMY REQUESTED THE AIR FORCE STRIKE. NO POST STRIKE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT IS YET AVAILABLE.

4. (U) GAPS IN THE FOREGOING INFORMATION ARE AS FOLLOWS: TYPE OF PHOTO-RECCE AIRCRAFT, TYPE OF TARGET MARKING (FAC) AIRCRAFT, SIZE OF FRAG BOMBS USED, NUMBER OF ATTACK AIRCRAFT USED.

5. COMMENT ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SINCE THE ARMY'S COUNTER-GUERRILLA OPERATION, DUBBED "OPERATION INDEPENDENCE," WAS LAUNCHED IN FEB 75, THE AIR FORCE HAS BEEN ITCHING TO PARTICIPATE. UNTIL THE SUBJECT STRIKE, THEY HAVE ONLY PROVIDED AIR LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO THE ARMY IN TUCUMAN WITH C-130'S. WHEN THE GUERRILLAS BLEW UP A C-130 IN TUCUMAN IN SEPTEMBER, AIR FORCE DESIRE FOR RETALIATION ROSE TO A BOIL. DURING THE ANNUAL ASADO (BAR B QUE) HELD BY THE AAF CG FOR FOREIGN AIR ATTACHE'S ON 6 NOV 75, SENIOR OFFICERS WERE EXHUBERANT. ONE SOURCE [Sec. 3.3(b) (1)] STATED THAT MORE STRIKES ARE PLANNED, BUT DID NOT ELABORATE. SOURCE STATED HOWEVER, THAT THE USE OF OTHER ORDNANCE IS BEING CONSIDERED. HE THEN ASKED ADVICE, [(b)(3):10 USC 424] ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OTHER ORDNANCE, PARTICULARLY NAPALM. SOURCE CONCLUDED [(b)(3):10 USC 424] BY OBSERVING THAT NOW THAT THE AIR FORCE HAD STRUCK, THEY EXPECTED TERRORIST RETALIATION IN THE FORM OF ASSASSINATIONS AND ATTACKS ON AIR FORCE UNITS. THIS MSG HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY. ~~HOSS-0~~

BT

#1107

PAGE 2

JCR117

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ 00100001